

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. Does anyone wish to speak to the committee amendments? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: As Senator Conway mentioned, this is a bill that Senator Conway introduced that was originally referred to the Appropriations Committee and then in a Executive Board, in an effort to lift some of the bills from the Appropriations Committee, put them at a place. What the committee amendments does I think is the prudent course. It just only says for two years we will give the Director of Personnel the discretionary authority to, and we funded accordingly in our appropriations package, treat the nonbargained employees the same as the bargained employees. I think the best way to do this is do this two years at a time because it certainly may be...a situation may arrive at some point in time for whatever reason the state does not want to treat these people the same. And I think it's prudent just to do it two years at a time, and therefore, support the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam Chairman, members, could I ask Senator Conway a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: I'll try.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay. I was kind of curious, is there some reason or do you know of a time in the past when the Departments of Human Resources or Personnel treated the nonbargaining employees different from the bargaining employees and it was so flagrant that it caused us to have to put in the statutes that they would be treated the same? I'm kind of curious if you know.

SENATOR CONWAY: I really can't take you back very far in the history. It was brought to me and I don't remember why I was even singled out to introduce it, but I do remember as we go back in like a recent history was that this policy was put into effect like two years ago and we gave the authority to the Director of Personnel at that time to start functioning this way, and I don't remember the history of what caused that and this is a continuation of that, but I don't remember the history of why we granted them that particular authority prior to the